

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a can body, for which a can jacket that is closed in a first joining step by a first joint is produced from a flat material and at least one closure member is arranged on the closed can jacket with at least one additional joint, wherein at least one ~~of the additional joints~~ joint is embodied as a laser-welded seam which forms a ring-shaped, circumferential closing seam between the closed can jacket and the at least one closure member, wherein seam contact surfaces of the can jacket and the closure member that are pressed against each other prior to the welding of the closing seam are embodied as ring-shaped circumferential edge regions which are at least one of expanded and necked down in a direction along ~~the~~ a longitudinal axis of the can ~~axis~~ for the welding of the closing seam, the method comprising:

pushing the can jacket and the at least one closure member together, with the edge regions getting to a stop position, wherein from the end faces of the two edge regions one is positioned on the inside and one on the outside of the can body;

forming the closing seam when two air-free adjoining seam contact surfaces are at a stop position against each other; and

an expanding step wherein the can jacket is inserted into an external mold, a hose element is arranged inside of the can jacket and the hose element is expanded, thereby the hose element is pressing the can wall against the external mold, wherein the hose element is separated from the can jacket.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first joint is embodied as a longitudinal seam in the form of a laser-welded butt seam for which the two end faces on the side of the flat material form the seam contact surfaces and the wall thickness of the can jacket is essentially constant along the complete circumference.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein prior to the welding of a closing seam, edge regions which are necked down toward the end faces are formed on both end faces of the can jacket.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the expanding step is performed prior to the welding of the closing seam, and wherein at least the edge regions near the end faces are formed, if necessary also an engagement region for a can lid and in particular decorating structures.
5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the expanding step is performed following the welding of at least one closing seam.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the flat material of the can jacket comprises a decorating film on the outside.
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the flat material of the can jacket comprises on the inside an internal film and that at least one covering device is arranged on the inside film, the at least one covering device being applied to the longitudinal seam after the welding, in such a way that it joins tightly with the inside film on both sides of the longitudinal seam, thereby covering the longitudinal seam.
9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the covering device comprises respectively at least one sealing bulge, wherein the at least one sealing bulge is made to flow, in a melting step, such that the longitudinal seam is covered by the material of the sealing bulge.
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one closure member comprises on the inside a plastic inside coating including a sealing bulge, wherein the sealing bulge is heated to the flow temperature following the forming of the closing seam, such that the end face positioned on the can inside is covered by the material of the sealing bulge.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the adjoining seam contact surfaces are non-coated during the welding of at least one closing seam.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one closing seam is covered on the outside of the can body by a base covering.

13.-22. (Cancelled)